

The Wylder West Series Guide

Thank you for your interest in writing for **The Wylder West Series**. Stories will range from 15,000 to 60,000 words in all established lines at The Wild Rose Press. Authors should submit the story concept on the **Additional Details** form to their editor and the series committee for approval at wylder@thewildrosepress.com. The call for submissions for the series will remain open for approximately two years, beginning July 2020.

The goal of providing details in a series bible is so the stories created within the special world are cohesive and do not clash with the reality of what has been established before. FOR EXAMPLE: The town of Wylder should only have one sheriff, and once he has a story, his character is taken and so on. Also, if Book Three contains an event such as a town dance in August of a certain year, then the same dance should not be mentioned the next winter. Again, if there is a runoff for town mayor, then that cannot happen again at another time. Readers remember these types of mistakes. Authors signing contracts for the Wylder West series agree to abide by the story world parameters and are subject to the approval and/or expected changes per the committee.

Stories must include one major character (hero or heroine) who is living in town, passing through town, or lives nearby. Stories must include a minimum of two scenes occurring in the town of Wylder, a fictitious western town in Wyoming Territory from 1878 to 1885.

We welcome contemporary set stories to our fictitious town, as well. Contemporary set Wylder stories should reflect a small-town feel such as a ranching/farming community with access to bigger cities, should the story call for it. In other words, there will be no Walmart or Starbucks in present-day Wylder, but there can certainly be general stores and coffee shops.

There is also room for other-worldly residents in Wylder, and we encourage our fantasy and paranormal authors to bring us their ghosts and witches, angels and celestial beings, and things that go bump in the night.

Diverse stories are welcome to the series across all lines. While the old west is defined in the short span of twenty or so years, it's a time when immigrants from many countries made their way to claim plots of land and start businesses. Freed men went west and became some of the best ranchers and herdsman, often taking jobs on cattle drives. The Chinese were in many of the towns, owning businesses and working for the railroad and in mining camps. Mexican ranchers were common, and Latin Americans hired on for various jobs. It was a melting pot of cultures with strong women and men of diverse ethnicities building the towns and making a living. Native American tribes were also active around the area during this time period. We encourage our authors to think outside the box when creating stories and not relegate ethnic characters only to sideline roles.

Characters can be townspeople or travelers through town. Characters will be defined by the author choosing to write from the available cast listed, including name and background/history, or by the creation of characters that fit into the concept of The Wylder West Series. Once a character has been used as the hero/heroine, they may appear in other stories, but no longer as the main character(s). The files will be updated, and authors including that character in successive stories must use the latest description and character's changed status (i.e. now in relationship or engaged or married, etc.). Editors/Committee will help with these details, as well.

Authors with approved stories involving the same holiday and/or town event are strongly encouraged to include a scene at the established town event ([see below](#)) and coordinate interactions with characters from other stories, sharing scenes among each other where needed (subject to approval of committee/editors). Having your characters appear in another author's book(s) provides a great opportunity to cross-promote the linked stories. However, your character will not appear as the hero/heroine in another story.

Wylder Events (see Wylder Series Time Line in file section of the Wylder group list):

- 1) Weather
 - a. Blizzard of 1878
- 2) Activities
 - a. Dances
 - b. Festivals
 - c. Founder's Day (first one to write the story sets the date)
 - d. Fourth of July celebration
 - e. Harvest Ball
 - f. Church Picnic
 - g. Christmas

FACTS:

- Opening Novel begins: Spring (May) 1878 (see Wylder timeline in files section)
- **Wylder** is about 15 miles east of Cheyenne Wyoming and has a railroad hub.
- **Current population of town:** 165 and growing.
- **• Transportation:**
 - o Horse and oxen-pulled wagons
 - o Railroad: arrives once a week on Sundays
 - o Weekly Stagecoach: arrives on Tuesdays and Fridays
- **Wylder** is a wild town with various businesses, and different people and occupations, such as:

Economy of Wylder includes local farming and ranching on small homesteads of herbs, trading of skins and hides, beef, pork, chickens, goats, sheep, etc. Local saloons have access to whiskey, bourbon, beer, etc.

People/Occupations	Indian Tribes	Rustlers	Businesses	Jail
Bartenders	Judges	Saloon girls	Apothecary	Mercantile
Calvary	Lawyers	Shop Keepers	Bakery	Restaurants
Cowboys/Cowgirls	Miners	Soldiers	Boarding Houses	Saloons
Drifters	Missionaries	Tinkers	Brothel	School
Farmers	Mountain Men	Townspople	Church	Services
Gypsies	Musicians	Trappers	Doctor's Office	Sheriff's Office
Homesteaders	Outlaws	US Marshalls	Farms	Shops
Hotel Employees	Railroad Employees		Homesteads	Train Depot/Rail Office
Immigrants	Ranchers		Hotels	

Industry of Wylder includes local mining, cattle, and railroad spurs. The town often has herds of cattle run through on the way to market by rail.

History:

The town was incorporated in 1869 when a wagon train of the Wylder family stopped to build their home and a mercantile. Wylder is a prairie town with diverse visitors and villagers. Native Americans from the local reservations come into town to trade their furs and goods. Mexican men are often in town with the cattle drives. Miners and railroad workers come to town for supplies. Missionaries and religious groups either stay or pass through, as do drifters and nogooders, such as outlaws. Men from the mountains frequent town to sell furs and hides and get supplies and goods. Immigrants pass through or stay, looking for new places to settle. Cowboys and cowgirls of every kind are visible, along with horsemen, cattlemen, gamblers, traders, tinkers, carpet baggers, swindlers, drifters, ex-soldiers, cavalrymen, etc. This list will continue to grow as stories settle into this series.

The Town of Wylder:

The first author to write about the town can describe buildings, set ups, character(s), etc. to be added to the bible. (Subject to the availability of characters and approval of editor(s) and/or committee.)

Layout of the Town: see town map in the files section of the Wylder group list.

A timeline is also available in the files section of the Wylder group list.

Authors are encouraged to adopt a townspeople as the protagonist of their stories. You may create characters not listed, but don't duplicate their professions with ones already listed on the Wylder timelines and info.

As stories are contracted, townspeople names will change, as will the relationship statuses. Always check the most recent version of the Wylder files before submitting your synopsis/story to your editor and the committee. The most current version will have a date in the file name.